



*Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Kentucky*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 29, 2005**

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**Washington, DC** – Assistant Attorney General Christopher A. Wray of the Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, Gregory F. Van Tatenhove, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Paul Sims, Resident Agent in Charge, United States Secret Service, Lexington Division, and Thomas E. Kelley of the Ashland, Kentucky Police Department jointly announce that JOHN E. ESTEP, age 54, of Ashland, Kentucky was sentenced today to 65 years imprisonment by the Honorable David L. Bunning, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

The defendant previously pled guilty to two counts of producing child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251, six counts of receipt of Child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252, and one count of possession of child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252. As part of his plea, the defendant admitted taking sexually explicit pictures of two eight-year old females and possessing the pictures on his home computer. Additionally, the defendant acknowledged that he received numerous sexually explicit images of children over the Internet from various child pornography websites.

The investigation leading up to the charges and plea was handled by Detective Scott Sexton of the Ashland Police Department, Special Agent Christopher Prewitt of the United States Secret Service and Detective Shannon Stone of the Winchester Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mark Wohlander of the United States Attorney's Office, Lexington, Kentucky and Trial Attorney Jennifer Toritto Leonardo of the Department of Justice, who prosecuted the case for the government, a hearing has been scheduled for May 2, 2005, in Pikeville, Kentucky to determine restitution to the victims of these offenses. The defendant also faces potential state charges of rape and sodomy of a minor.

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